

## TRADES' COUNCIL WELL ATTENDED TUESDAY NIGHT

### Clark Elected Delegate To Trades Congress Convention At Hamilton

The meeting of the Trades' Council which was held on Tuesday last was well attended both from the point of actual number of delegates present and the number of local unions represented.

Credentials were received for P. Daly and H. Hawthorne from the Boilermakers, and J. Leslie from the Police Union, and the delegates seated.

The election of Delegate Harry Clark as a delegate to the Trades and Labor Congress Convention, further discussion of the Monaghan case and the address of Rev. F. E. Mercer regarding the nomination of candidates for the coming civic elections, were among the principal items of business dealt with.

Mr. Mercer who attended the meeting as a representative of the local Labor Party, requested the co-operation of the council in the nomination of candidates to represent Labor in the civic elections this fall. He stated that the Party executive wanted only candidates who would have the approval of the Trade Union movement and suggested that the executive committee of the two bodies should confer on the matter of the selection of suitable men. Mr. Mercer also made an appeal for members for the party. He announced that an invitation had been sent to Arthur Henderson, Secretary of the British Labor Party, to visit Edmonton on his trip to America.

Delegate Branham reported for the committee which had been appointed to investigate the Monaghan case and recommended that the council take no action in the matter. There was considerable discussion on the report, and the consensus of opinion of the delegates was that the case was a matter for the consideration of the Firemen's Union, inasmuch as the firemen's organization had not approached the council on the matter the delegates felt that no action should be taken.

The executive committee recommended that the council should send a delegate to Hamilton to attend the Trades' Congress convention. The names of Delegates Clark of the Musicians, Irvine of the Police and McCormack of the Civic Service Union were balloted upon and on the second ballot Delegate Clark was declared elected. Delegate McCormack is the alternate delegate. A request was made to the effect that local unions who were not sending a delegate should send in resolutions which would receive the attention of the council's representatives.

Under Communications and Bills, a number of important letters were read. The Auto Mechanics of Seattle advise the council that they are experiencing some difficulty and ask workers to steer clear of Seattle at this time. Another communication from the Potters' Union of Quebec re the tariff was referred to the Legislative Committee to report later.

Metal Polishers of Newark are on strike at the Gilechrist plant in that city, and asked that union men do not purchase products of the firm. A call from the American Freedom Convention was ordered filed.

The Cigar Makers' International Union informed the council that the Tuckett cigars were being manufactured under non-union conditions and the members of the Union had been locked out of the Tuckett plant. A similar communication came from Richmond, Va. regarding Starr pianos and phonographs, which were asked to be put on the unfair list.

A communication from the American Women's Trade Union League was referred to the Organization Committee to report as to the advisability of forming a branch of the League in this city.

A delegate from the Old Fort Lodge of Machinists reported that the packing plants and contract shops were not carrying out the terms of the agreement. The Council Executive was instructed to go into the matter.

Delegate Irvine referred to the death of Policeman Nixon, who had been an active member of the police organization, and invited the delegates to attend the funeral of the murdered brother.

President McCreath occupied the chair.

## C.P.R. DEFEATED IN EFFORT TO STOP PAYMENT BENEFITS

The Canadian Pacific railroad has been defeated in its effort to stop the workmen's compensation board paying benefits arising out of the foundering of the steamer Princess Sophia in Alaskan waters last October. The railroad company owned the boat and when the board awarded benefits an injunction was secured against it, the railroad company holding that the vessel was in foreign waters and outside the jurisdiction of the board. The injunction is now set aside.

## PLUMBERS' UNION AT VANCOUVER GETS WAGE AGREEMENT

The agreement between the Plumbers' Union at Vancouver and the employers has been settled to the satisfaction of both parties, reports Organizer J. W. Bruce. An increase in wages of \$1.20 per day with double time for overtime has been obtained. The closed shop, which was lost to the Union during the recent strike, has also been agreed to by the employers. These improvements will give the plumbers of Vancouver a wage of \$7.20 for an eight-hour day and a closed shop with double time for overtime.

## R. R. JOBBERY CHARGE MAY BE INVESTIGATED

### Resolution Introduced in House For Investigation of Plumb Charges

Congressman Huddleston has introduced a resolution in the house which provides for an investigation of the charges of corruption by railroad interests, made by Glenn E. Plumb, attorney for the railroad brotherhoods. The request is made that the committee's report shall be laid before congress prior to adoption of railroad legislation.

Under the resolution the investigators would ascertain:

1. Whether it is true, as charged, that the railroads have fraudulently issued various securities in excess of the consideration paid therefor, and if so, the extent of such usurpation.
2. Whether it is true, as charged, that such railroads have expended on their properties out of excess earnings large amounts received by them as payment for such service, and if so, to what extent and amount, and how far such expenditures are now represented in their investment accounts.
3. Whether it is true, as charged, that gifts, grants, aids and donations of great value made to said corporations by aid of the construction of their railways have been appropriated to the private benefit of promoters or capitalized against the public in property investment accounts, and if so, to what extent.
4. Whether it is true, as charged, that the pay rolls of the railroads while under government control have been padded for practical purposes, and if so, on whose responsibility such expenditures have been made and the extent thereof.
5. Whether it is true, as charged, that while under government control, the managers of the railroads have spent large and unnecessary sums for the maintenance and renewals of their properties and for overhauling past depreciation, and if so, to what extent, and on whom rests the responsibility thereof.

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## DEPT. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SET UP BY BRITISH GOVT.

### Representatives of Trade Unions and Employers Consulted in Regard to Systems

In view of the importance of providing industrial training such as is required by large numbers of the demobilized members of H. M. forces and civilian war workers who are being set free from their war occupations, the government has decided to set up a special department of the Ministry of Labor to deal entirely with questions of industrial training.

This department not only will administer various schemes for the vocational training of discharged soldiers and sailors, of civil war workers of either sex, and of women who are being discharged from the various auxiliary corps, but will, in due course, take over from the Ministry of Pensions the training of disabled men, with the exception of those who require medical supervision or training of a curative nature.

Further, the new department will lay down the general lines upon which the training of serving soldiers and of men in hospitals will be carried on.

Representatives of the trade-unions and employers will be consulted in regard to the proposed system of training so as to receive their advice and co-operation in the work of the department. Arrangements are also being made to insure the interest of local authorities in all training work.

The Minister of Labor has appointed Mr. James Currie, C. M. G., formerly director of the Munitions Training Section of the Labor Supply Department of the Ministry of Munitions, controller of the new department.

## LONGSHOREMEN ON PACIFIC COAST GET UNIFORM AGREEMENT

### First Time Uniform Agreement Has Been Signed Covering Pacific Northwest Ports.

Providing a uniform scale for Washington, Oregon and British Columbia ports for the first time in northwest history and granting increases up to 15 cents an hour on straight time work and 30 cents an hour on overtime work, a new agreement was signed late Saturday night by representatives of the Northwest Waterfront Employers' Union and the Pacific Coast District Council of the International Longshoremen's Association. The agreement is retroactive to 8 o'clock the morning of August 12. This is the first time a uniform agreement has ever been signed by waterfront and longshoremen interests covering the leading northwest ports, the list including Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Astoria, Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. The agreement is to continue indefinitely, or until cancellation on thirty days' notice is given by either side.

The new scale is as follows: Longshoremen on coastwise and deep sea work, 90 cents an hour straight time and \$1.35 an hour overtime. Truckers, 80 cents an hour straight time and \$1.20 an hour overtime. Lumber handlers, 95 cents an hour straight time and \$1.40 an hour overtime.

The new agreement recognizes the principle of collective bargaining and gives union shop conditions. On the other hand the employers are insured against strikes or stoppages of work. Local grievance committees will investigate all grievances and, if they can not agree arbitration will be resorted to and the arbitrator's decision shall be final.

Recent issues of the Labor Gazette have recorded the introduction of the eight-hour day, or 48-hour week, in several countries in Europe and elsewhere. Information is now to hand with respect to other countries not previously mentioned. According to the Swiss Press the 48-hour week is already in effect in Switzerland in the watch-making industry and in the milling industry, and will shortly be introduced in the macaroni and other food industries, and in the printing, lithographing and bookbinding trades.

A dispatch from H. M. Minister at Lisbon states that a new decree relating to the hours of labor in Portugal came into force in May last. The length of the maximum working day is fixed at 8 hours for all workpeople and employees of the state and administrative bodies, and of commercial and industrial corporations in Portugal and the adjacent islands. In occupations of unhealthy or harmful nature these hours may be further reduced by special decree. In industries which necessitate continuous work, as in the case of special services, the 8-hour limit may be organized. Where overtime is absolutely necessary, the rate of payment shall be a role double that for normal time. No reductions in existing salaries or wages are allowed to be made on account of the reduction in working hours. Penalties are imposed upon employers for contravention of the law. Agricultural workers, domestic servants and waiters and others employed in hotels and restaurants do not come within the scope of the decree.

Press reports indicate that negotiations between the Danish Employers' Federation and the Federation of Danish Trade Unions have resulted in an agreement for the introduction of an eight-hour day as from the first of January, 1920. Agriculture, shipping and certain occupations such as those of stokers, carters, etc. do not fall within the scope of the agreement. All those who at present work 9 hours a day are, with the above exceptions, to have their daily hours reduced by half an hour from October 1, next. In this agreement the employers are not to bear the cost of the reduction in hours. The Federation of Trade Unions undertakes not to oppose such overtime being worked as the needs of the various trades may require. The agreement provides for the appointment of a committee comprising five representatives from each of the parties, with an official of the government as chairman, to decide any disputes concerning its application.

Mr. Gompers declared that "The employers of labor have not yet learned that the time is past when they are the complete monarchs of all they survey. Certainly, men and women who work must have a voice in determining conditions under which they shall give their labor."

A prepared statement was issued by Mr. Gompers, on the "Progress of Labor at the international trades union congress convention in which he said that congress "for the first time approximates the democratic conception of genuine internationalism."

"The new organization is already something more than a mere framework," Mr. Gompers said. "It has already taken a firm and unmistakable attitude on what is perhaps the gravest problem of this critical hour: 'Is organized labor to be inveigled into the revolutionary movements that have been showing their heads in every country in Europe as a result of the war?'"

Alluding to the overwhelming defeat by the congress of a resolution calling for organized labor's support of soviet revolutions, Mr. Gompers said: "The defeat of this proposition means the definite and final repudiation by the organized labor of Europe and America, not only by Bolshevism, but of the whole effort to involve labor unions in international revolutionary movements of any kind. It is true that the majority of the delegates profess more or less socialistic doctrines, but they have finally and definitely repudiated the persistent and ceaseless efforts of the socialist parties to utilize the unions for a revolutionary end."

Mr. Gompers characterized the recent socialist proposal for an "international and revolutionary strike" throughout Europe and America last July as "near-bolshevism" and expressed his satisfaction that the labor unions in every country of Europe turned it down, with the partial exception of Italy. "This proposed general strike," he declared, "was the last hope of the pro-bolsheviks."

It is about time for all forward looking men to go forward.

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS AT VANCOUVER GET CHARTER REVOKED

The charter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 213, Vancouver, was taken away by International Vice-President E. Inglis, last Monday. The British Columbia Federationist states that the reason for this action is because the membership of the union voted on the question sent out by the British Columbia Federation of Labor dealing with the six-hour day and Industrial Unionism. The question naturally arises as to whether the explanation is complete, and if the result of their vote was not the true cause of the loss of the charter.

## SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE EIGHT HOUR DAY

### Switzerland, Portugal and Denmark Now Have the Forty-eight Hour Week

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## EDMONTON LABOR ASKED TO HOLD PROTEST MEETING

### Asks Call For General Strike September 17th, of 24 Hours Duration

President McCreath of the Trades and Labor Council is in receipt of a wire from Winnipeg signed by James Law of the strike leaders defence committee. The telegram requests organized Labor in Edmonton to hold protest meetings on Sunday next and to call a general strike for September 17th of 24 hours duration. The wire states that both O.B.U. and International Labor Councils of Winnipeg endorse the proposition. The wire is dated September 2nd. A dispatch has come over the local press wires dated September 3rd, which reads as follows:

Winnipeg, Sept. 3.—At its regular meeting last night the Trades and Labor Council decided to send delegates to the industrial conference to be held between the Government and representatives of Labor. Regarding the Dominion-wide strike as suggested by the defence committee it was felt that the movement being in such a weak state as the result of the recent general strike, was not in any position to declare a strike of such magnitude on such short notice.

Local Labor men express the opinion that the Edmonton unions are not likely to participate in a general strike until all other means have been exhausted to secure the release of the imprisoned men.

## PRESIDENT'S PLANS FOR CHECKING HIGH COST OF LIVING

### Should Be Law Requiring Goods Bear Selling Prices At Which Produced

The following are President Wilson's proposals for checking the high cost of living presented to Congress recently:

1. Licensing of all corporations engaged in interstate commerce, with specific regulations designed to secure competitive selling and prevent "unconscionable profits" in the method of marketing.
2. Extension of the Food Control Act to peace times and the application of its provisions against hoarding of fuel, clothing and other necessities of life as well as food.
3. A penalty in the Food Control Act for profiteering.
4. A law regulating cold storage, limiting the time during which goods may be held, prescribing a method of disposing of them if held beyond the permitted period, and requiring that, when released, goods bear the date of storage.
5. Laws requiring that goods released from storage for interstate commerce bear the selling prices at which they went into storage, and requiring that all goods destined for interstate commerce bear the price at which they left the hands of the producers.
6. Additional applications for Government agencies which can supply the public with full information as to prices at which retailers buy.

Immediate steps by Executive Agencies of the Government promised by the President included: The limiting and controlling of wheat shipments and credits to facilitate the purchase of wheat in such a way as not to raise, but rather to lower, the price of flour at home. Sale of surplus stocks of food and clothing in the hands of the Government. The forced withdrawal from cold storage and sale of surplus stocks of food and clothing in the hands of the Government. The forced withdrawal from cold storage and sale of surplus stocks in private hands.

"WEEK-END STRIKE" SOMETHING NEW IN STRIKE ORDER

Cable operators working on the New York end of the Commercial Cable Company's Atlantic lines, have announced that beginning on Friday night at midnight the men would remain off duty for 48 hours, returning at midnight Sunday, the same to occur every week-end, Friday midnight until Sunday midnight, until their demands have been granted. This "week-end strike" is something new in the strike line and the results will be watched with much interest.

The operators who are members of the Cable-Telegraph Operators' Association are demanding a wage equal to that received by operators at the European end of the lines. The European employees, it is said, are receiving a 60 per cent annual bonus on their salary and an allowance of \$25 a month for subsistence. The United States operators receive 30 per cent bonus and an allowance for subsistence.

Builders strike in Montreal for eight-hour day

Fifteen thousandmen connected with the building industry at Montreal went on strike Tuesday for an eight-hour day with ten hours' rest.

## WINNIPEG LABOR HOLDS PARADE AS MARK OF PROTEST

Fully 2,000 men, women and children of all ranks of labor, Monday morning paraded in Winnipeg, in protest against refusal of bail to the eight labor leaders awaiting trial for seditious conspiracy. Just as the lines were being formed it began to rain, but the parade was carried out in spite of the rain.

The parade was under the auspices of the O.B.U., but it did not represent a show of O.B.U. strength, as the cause of the parade was a common grievance of labor, and all factions were invited to unite in the demonstration.

## METAL WORKERS IN FRANCE HAVE EIGHT-HOUR DAY

### Provision Regarding Eight-Hour Day Became Effective On June 1, 1919.

Representatives of the metallurgical, mining, mechanical construction, electrical and manufacturing employees' union, and of the Federation of Metal Workers of France have agreed upon the following articles: There shall be an eight-hour day in all of these industries. The employees will adapt themselves to the modern development in machinery and to reasonable methods of work in order that production may early resume its former status and attain the proportions necessary to the general welfare. The employers recognize that in order to maintain and develop production it is expedient to establish piece rates, premiums, and bonuses and they agree to guarantee a wage based upon production under normal conditions; and if, by reason of the activity and efforts of the employees, production exceeds this base, the employees are assured that their increased production shall not be considered as a reason for a reduction of wages.

The reduction of the hours of labor to eight shall not work a decrease in wages. Employees working by the hour shall have compensating increase of hour rates, but changes in piece rates shall be demanded only when such rates, without change in equipment, do not afford, with normal effort, an opportunity to earn the usual wages.

Foreign workmen having equal occupational skill as French workmen may be employed when industrial conditions demand it and shall receive equal wages and remunerations. The provision regarding the eight-hour day became effective June 1, 1919, in mechanical construction, metallurgy, naval, electrical, and manufacturing establishments.

In establishments where operation is continuous, however, and in which special difficulties are encountered in increasing the personnel and in changing machinery, the eight-hour day shall not be established until six months after the signing of the peace treaty. In order to meet these conditions the two organizations agree to make in common the necessary investigations relative to improvement in machinery, recruiting of labor, and needed changes in methods and operations.

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## HIGH WAGES NO EXCUSE FOR HIGH COST OF SHOES

### Federal Trade Commission Blames Business Men and Not Labor.

The federal trade commission at Washington reports that the high price of shoes can not be justified.

The favorite "high wages" excuse of business men is not accepted by the commission, which states that "labor and general expenses did not increase at so great a rate as either leather or other materials."

It is shown that leather constitutes from 60 to 75 per cent of the total cost of all shoes, except infants, and the retailer's absolute gross profit per pair of shoes "was very much greater in 1918 than in 1914."

In a group of shoes that cost the retailer from \$2 to \$2.50 in 1914, a large proportion of them were retailed for \$3.50. In 1918 the same shoes cost the retailer from \$3.05 to \$4.45 and were sold from \$5 to \$7 a pair. In 1914 the retailer's absolute gross profit for this group averaged a little more than \$1 per pair, and in 1918 it averaged more than \$1.80 per pair, while popular priced stores had a lower rate of expense in 1918 than they had in years prior to that time.

The commission finds that the retailer is not the only one to blame. It says: "The public had to pay prices for shoes that could not be justified not only because retail shoe dealers took too much profit, but because the dealer had to pass on to the consumer the excessive profits received by butchers for hides and also the excess profits of tanners and hide manufacturers."

"Taking into consideration all the circumstances, the high prices of shoes in 1917 and 1918 cannot be justified. Leather manufacturers, shoe manufacturers and retail shoe merchants all made unprecedented profits."

H. J. W. Powers, secretary of the Winnipeg Typographical Union, No. 191, with his wife and son was in the city Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, and renewed acquaintance with several old friends.

## DOMINION LABOR PARTY CONVENTION CALGARY, SEPT. 1

### Two Edmonton Men Elected Officers; Next Convention To Be Held In This City

The convention of the Alberta Branch of the Dominion Labor Party which was held in Calgary on Labor Day was highly successful in every way. Delegates from all parts of the province were present.

Rev. F. E. Mercer of Edmonton was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the organization, and R. Mitchell also of the Edmonton branch was made Vice-President.

The convention opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, in the Labor Temple, with President Holmes Jowett of Lethbridge in the chair. Messrs. Smitten, Murray and McNabb were appointed as a resolutions committee and were instructed to bring in a statement of the ideals and objects of the party. With a view to having the organization as democratic as possible, each local branch will have a member on the provincial executive. The officers will be President, three Vice-Presidents and Secretary-Treasurer. The Vice-Presidents will be responsible for organization work in different parts of the province.

Future conventions will be held in the month of January each year. By invitation of the local branch the next convention will be held in Edmonton.

Resolutions calling for a half-day for election day, the provision for workers who are prevented from voting by reason of forced absence due to their employment, to cast their ballot, were passed. The abolition of deposits and property qualifications, the equalization of pensions and the \$2,000 cash bonus were also the subjects of resolutions.

Another resolution instructed the incoming executive to co-operate with the farmers in order to secure the election of members of parliament who were independent of the two older parties. The laxity of the Government in dealing with the high cost of living was also the subject of a strong resolution.

The Alberta Branch will extend an invitation to Arthur Henderson, Secretary of the British Labor Party, to visit Alberta during his visit to America.

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